

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

December 17, 2002

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the presentation of colors and Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Cub Scout Pack 290 from St. Pius Church.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

Mayor Baines stated I would ask everyone to please sit down and the Scouts remain standing and ask one of the leaders to come forward to introduce these young men to us and say a little bit about Cub Pack 290.

Cub Scout Leader Tony Bradburn stated these are the Webelos Scouts of Pack 290 from St. Pius Parish, we have Connor Bradburn, Ben Houle, Tim Denoncourt, Ian Standish, Alex Doyon, Brendan Rothwell, Casey Godzik and this is my co-leader Don Standish.

Mayor Baines stated I think three of them are students at St. Anthony's and a couple are students at Green Acres, I understand. Again, thank you very much. If we could all stand again for the retreat of the colors.

The Clerk called the roll. There were twelve Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault and Forest

Absent: Aldermen Wihby and Osborne

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Keith Hirschmann, 296 Dunbarton Road, Manchester, NH, stated:

I would like to welcome the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to the west side in this lovely building. On a serious note, previous Boards of Mayor and Aldermen have had a lot of tough choices on budgetary matters and one of them, a few years back, was the step raise contract that came through some consulting firm and it passed on an 11 to 1 vote, it's called the Yarger Decker Step Raise Agreement. I understand that that has hamstrung the current Mayor and I predicted that that would happen as I was the sole person not to vote for that agreement because I saw that merit increases and step increases at the percentage that was locked into that agreement would harm the City in the future. Well, here we are Ladies and Gentlemen in the future and you're having tough times managing the City affairs, the budget of Manchester. Poor Alderman Shea was hospitalized so he missed that vote and Alderman Wihby was in Las Vegas and I was the sole dissenter, so it came down as an 11 to 1 vote on the Yarger Decker Agreement. I really wish that you would show some leadership, take a look at what you can freeze in City government for the taxpayers. A lot of us have had our properties revalued, increases of 46%, 56% and on top of those large percentages you are now putting on 6%, 8%...every year an increase. You've got to do better. We have a \$5.1 billion tax base in the City of Manchester and the taxpayers are counting on you. I'm at the point, quite frankly, that I feel I have to run for Alderman again to get into this mix to make sure that the taxpayers are protected because I don't feel it's happening currently. I'm appealing to you all, please do better. Thank you.

Howie Harland, Ward 4, Manchester, NH, stated:

During this time of Holiday expression and compassion for our fellow man it's important that we pay tribute to the greatest resource that this City has and that's its people. It is the concentration of population into Manchester that makes it the major recognized City in the State. However, despite having the largest population we lag behind smaller cities in this State in wages and industrial expansion. It was the promise of large numbers of jobs for the common man in our textile mills and machine shops that swelled the population of the City 100 years ago. It is the impression that as the largest City in the State there must be a large quantity of jobs here and that brings in new residents. It is the hope of many like the current 35,000 unemployed by the way that better jobs will come and that makes them stay.

Economic development is important to Manchester and should not be taken lightly or used as a way to supplant our current population with better people. Responsible leaders recognize the goals, needs and abilities of their population, regard them as assets and build upon this. Manchester, despite the loss of the textile industry is still a blue collar industrial City. The objective of our leaders should be to bring manufacturing jobs back into the City in areas easily accessible to the people. Stop trying to shift these jobs to the City's boundaries. We have large tracts of available industrial property within walking distance of the majority of the population, so there's no need to concentrate on such places as Hackett Hill or the Airport. Doing so will only require greater strains on the pocketbooks of this City to provide better, greater infrastructure improvements such as roads, traffic controls and public

transportation. Put the jobs where the people are and where they can easily get to them. Show the people who live here now that you still care. Thank you.

Joe Kelly Levasseur, 866 Elm Street, Manchester, NH, stated:

Taxes, renovations, additions to schools...there's a lot of things that obviously...a lot of things going on in the City of Manchester...baseball field, but I'm not here to talk about that stuff I'll wait until after January...I want to first say Merry Christmas to all of you. What I'm here to say and to talk about is the civic center. As I sit here tonight Kenny Rodgers is playing, there's a big line of people out there, the parking lot's full, all the side streets are all filled with cars and I just wanted to come and pay a little tribute to Jay Taylor. I know that he's retiring on January 3rd, so I just wanted to pay my respects to Jay Taylor...I think he's done an outstanding job for the City of Manchester over the years, he's one of the classiest gentleman that I have every come to meet at City Hall and I do say that we do have a lot of quality people working in government and Jay Taylor represents the best of what we have over at City Hall and I'd like you all to think very carefully on getting rid of that economic position. I believe that when times get tougher you really need to advertise your City harder and you need people working harder to make sure that we keep our businesses and bring our businesses forward and I'd also like to throw a little plug in for Mike Cousineau's book, it's a nice little Christmas present. It talks about the first year at the arena which I think has been a success so far and I hope continues to be and I'm going to present this to Jay Taylor and all the people that were instrumental in the actual civic center sign the book and I want to thank a lot of the Aldermen who had voted for that and for signing the book and I want to wish you all a very good Happy New Year and we'll see you when things get a little bit tougher in the next year we'll be right here with you. Thank you.

Robin Comstock, President & CEO, Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, 889 Elm Street, Manchester, NH, stated:

Tonight's meeting agenda includes an item about the proposed brand. The Chamber is asking you to adopt Manchester The Queen City where history invites opportunity as the City's official brand. It is not our intention to replace the City Seal with the brand rather we're hoping to adopt an image and a message that tells a little bit about us as Beantown does for Boston and the Windy City does for Chicago. The City has a long history of a variety of brands that have attempted to capture our history and our opportunities. Generally, as is the brand, we are proposing tonight the Queen City's crown. As in the past brands we're proposing tonight the Queen City's crown caps the message. Jay Taylor actually pulled out of his file a similar brand or moniker that was used probably in the 40's or perhaps the 30's. Today's version is actually a modernized caricature of that brand although we didn't use it as a premise for our development, it is interesting to me that the message continues to be the same so many years later. My employee in communications has run out to the car to get a copy of the logo actually to show you and if she arrives in my allotted three minutes I'd be happy to show it to you. It is our hope that, if adopted, the City will use the brand on cars, stages, flagging, signage and all marketing materials. A key

piece of the Manchester renaissance is our image. Unlike a City seal our proposed brand reflects our pride about our uniqueness of our City by telling a story with images. If adopted, we will also encourage area businesses to use the brand on corporate marketing materials, on tourism promotional materials, menus, programs, schedules and much more. If we each participate in branding our City's image for ourselves and to those who come to explore us we will strengthen our ability to move forward to enhance our efforts to rejuvenate Manchester. I will be here for any questions should you have them. I hope you look favorably upon our request [I hear the back door did she make it in time]. Well, if you'd like to see it it will be in the second isle on the left. Thank you very much.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman Smith, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented, and on motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk